

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the following line of text on page 14, line 19, of the specification:

strength function  $\alpha_k$ . When  $\sigma_k$  (i.e., the square root of

Please amend the following line of text on page 15, line 13, of the specification:

standard deviation of each block are computed by ~~a~~ the Mean

Please amend the following line of text on page 18, line 17, of the specification:

pixels (other block sizes can be used). The mean  $m_n$  and

Please amend the following line of text on page 20, line 9, of the specification:

compensated as  $\tilde{d}_0 = d_0 + K \cdot (d_0 - (m_0 - 0))$ , wherein  $\tilde{d}_0$  denotes

Please amend the following line of text on page 20, line 18, of the specification:

parameter  $K$  is empirically determined. Preferably in this